

The champions representing America have taken Tokyo by storm. We have won 25 medals, 9 gold medals so far. But earlier today, we received word that one of our great athletes, Simone Biles, was taking a step back from today's competition. In announcing her decision, she cited the need to "focus on my mental health and not jeopardize my health and wellbeing."

There is no doubt that this is one of the hardest decisions Ms. Biles has had to make in her young life, but it is not only what she viewed as the right decision, it was a courageous decision.

She is the most decorated gymnast in America's history. She is an inspiration to millions of aspiring athletes and fans around the globe. And she is by all means a living legend. But she is also a human, a young woman who today had the courage to step forward and share her humanity with the world. She is an inspiration to all of us, on or off the mat, in competition or not in competition.

Over the past 18 months, the pandemic has compelled each of us to appreciate our common humanity. COVID-19 has claimed the lives of too many friends and family members. It has prevented us from coming together with people we cherish, and it has put many of our plans on hold. It has caused and compounded unimaginable stress, and it has exacted an unimaginable toll. Job loss, not enough food on the table, hardship, paying bills, racial injustice, all of these stressors on life have been magnified.

So if we can learn from Simone Biles' example today, it is that everyone has a burden to carry, and the pandemic has made many of these burdens heavier, especially for working families.

I happen to think we have a responsibility—if we can—to help each other carry those burdens. Here in Congress, we—as lawmakers—have the power to help people. For the single mother who lost her job waiting tables because of the pandemic, we have the power to help her pay her utility bills. For the recent graduate struggling to afford student loan payments and health insurance, we have the power to make their life more affordable. For the owner of a coffee shop who is considering laying off employees to stay in business, we have the power to help him keep those employees on the payroll. To me, this is what President Biden's plan to build back better is all about: eliminating the daily stressors that keep people up all night, giving people some breathing room so that they can focus on the things that really matter.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

REMEMBERING MIKE ENZI

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, like all of our colleagues, I was stunned to wake up this morning and find out that our friend and colleague Mike Enzi had been killed in a tragic accident, I think involving a bicycle, and I think we are still reeling from that.

I just want to share a couple thoughts, if I could. I see the Senator from Oklahoma is here to speak after me, and I will be brief.

I think maybe one of the last bills that Mike Enzi introduced, I was privileged to cosponsor with him. It was a postal naming bill. We do those from time to time, as the Presiding Officer knows. There is a post office in Wyoming that under the bill would be named after the late father of Bobbi Barrasso, Senator JOHN BARRASSO's wife. Her dad had served in the military—I believe in World War II and the Korean war, as I recall—with great honor and courage. He was awarded a number of military awards, I think including the Bronze Star, maybe the Purple Heart and others. I was privileged to cosponsor that bill, and it got passed in wrap-up in Congress last December.

One of my first memories of serving in the U.S. Senate also involved Mike Enzi. I was the Presiding Officer sitting right where you are sitting, Mr. Presiding Officer, and Mike Enzi took the floor and began to speak. He talked about something called the 80-20 rule, and I didn't know what he was talking about. I heard several iterations of an 80-20 rule. But I listened to him talk. He talked a bit about how he and Ted Kennedy, one of the most liberal Senators in the Senate, and Mike Enzi, one of the more conservative Members of the Senate, how they managed to work together and get a lot done as senior members of what would become the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, the HELP Committee, here in the Senate.

I didn't know Mike Enzi. I was brand new here, and he had been here a couple of years before that.

When he was finishing up, I asked one of the pages to give him a note. The note said: Dear Senator Enzi, before you leave the floor, would you come and chat with me?

I was sitting right there. It was a slow day, so he finished up, and he came up to chat with me while I was sitting—presiding as Presiding Officer.

I said: Mike, what is the 80-20 rule, and how does it apply here?

He talked about his relationship with Ted Kennedy. He said: Ted Kennedy is one of the most liberal Democrats in the Senate, and I am one of the more conservative Republicans. He said: We get a lot done.

And they really did. It was a very productive committee.

I said: How does the 80-20 rule work?

He said: Ted and I agree on about 80 percent of the issues that come before our committee, and we disagree maybe on another 20 percent. He said: What he and I have agreed to do is just—we focus on the 80 percent where we agree, and we just say the other 20 percent, we will set that aside and take it up another day.

I said: Is that what you do?

He said: Yes.

I said: Is this something you just started doing recently?

He said: No. We have done it for several years.

I said: No kidding?

He said: No kidding.

And, you know, when I think about that, I know we are going through a tough patch right now with infrastructure and trying to figure out how to put together a bipartisan package with water and water infrastructure, roads, highways, bridges, broadband, intercity passenger rail, transit, and it is not easy. It is not easy.

As I heard about Mike's death today, I thought about that spirit, the 80-20 rule. Maybe we can take a little bit of that and use that to get us across the finish line on the legislation that is being worked on. I hope so. It is an important bill, and it is important legislation. A lot of people in this country are counting on us to do that.

On a personal note, you can't think of Mike Enzi without thinking of his wife Diana. They were inseparable. They were here. They were in Wyoming and traveling all over the State together. As popular as he was, she might have been even more popular. I know that is the case in my State with my wife and me.

But I just want to say to her and to the Enzi family just a real thank-you for sharing not just with the people of Wyoming, but the people of this country, a very, very good man—a very good man. We are grateful for that gift that you shared with us and mourn his death, untimely; he died too soon. I feel thrilled and privileged to have served with him.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

NOMINATION OF TRACY STONE-MANNING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, President Biden nominated Tracy Stone-Manning to be the leader of the Bureau of Land Management. Many people in my State don't know much about the Bureau of Land Management. We don't have a lot of areas actually managed in our State by BLM. It has more than 10,000 employees. It manages roughly an eighth of the Nation's land, including 65 million acres of our forests. The land holds 30 percent of our minerals. Whoever leads this entity leads the issue of how we are managing our forests, how we are handling our minerals, how we are handling our energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, and, yes, timber harvesting.

The individual President Biden nominated we now know was an Earth First! ecoterrorist. She actually typed out, as she has admitted in the past, a threatening letter that was sent out to leaders who were doing forestry in Idaho, saying in her letter that she typed out—and she has admitted that she typed out the threatening letter—that "we," as she put it, drove 500 pounds of spikes into the trees in the Idaho forest and then threatened them, to say: If you harvest those trees, it will not be good for you.